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RESOLUTION NO. 2010-19

A RESOLUTION OF THE ALBANY CITY COUNCIL ACCEPTING THE FERN TIGER ASSOCIATES REPORT: *VOICES TO VISION – A COMMUNITY’S VISION FOR ALBANY’S WATERFRONT*

WHEREAS, in November, 2007, the City Council directed the Waterfront Committee to conduct a consultant solicitation process and make a recommendation to the City Council on the selection of a consultant, scope of work, and budget, for engagement with the community and preparation of a vision for the waterfront; and

WHEREAS, in December, 2007, the Waterfront Committee circulated a Request for Qualifications seeking firms with appropriate expertise to carry out a community visioning program for the Albany Waterfront, that would be a proactive, community-driven planning process; and

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2008, the Waterfront Committee voted to recommend to the City Council the selection of Fern Tiger Associates to conduct a waterfront visioning process; and

WHEREAS, on April 21, 2008, the City Council authorized execution of a contract with Fern Tigers Associates to conceive, design and facilitate an appropriate process to educate and engage residents in a process to develop a shared vision for the future of the waterfront; and

WHERAS, this was to be a process in which people would provide their perspectives, ideas, and goals rather than react to a fully-formed plan or proposal; and

WHEREAS, Fern Tiger Associates set out to design a process that responded to the concerns, issues, and perceptions of the community, and that offered opportunities for residents to provide meaningful input; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the design for the process was rooted in the need for objectivity,
2 neutrality, trust, inclusiveness, education, and reliability; and

3 **WHEREAS**, over a two-year period, Fern Tiger Associates conducted
4 researched, informed the community, engaged residents, analyzed feedback, and
5 synthesized the results into key findings and recommended guideline in a process named
6 “Voices to Vision”; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Fern Tiger Associates reviewed more than 5,000 pages of
8 documents; prepared and sent a 20-page tabloid publication of facts and other
9 information about the waterfront to all Albany addresses; created and displayed a model
10 of the waterfront; made 26 presentations to Albany commissions and City Council;
11 conducted 49 interactive community engagement sessions; offered community
12 participation in three languages; analyzed more than 45,000 pieces of data; conducted an
13 online questionnaire designed with individual passcodes for Albany households; and
14 answered 143 questions in the publication and on the website; and

15 **WHEREAS**, nearly 1,2000 Albany residents, which represents about one in 10
16 adult residents, participated in Voices to Vision through community sessions and the
17 questionnaire; and

18 **WHEREAS**, separate community engagement sessions were held for regional
19 stakeholders who lived outside of Albany and for students at Albany High School; and

20 **WHEREAS**, on April 5, 2010 Fern Tiger Associates presented the *Voices to*
21 *Vision Final Report and Recommendations* to the City Council and community, and was
22 available at the City Council meeting of April 19, 2010 to answer questions; and

23 **WHEREAS**, the *Voices to Vision Final Report and Recommendations* consists of
24 a 100-page report and a 842-page appendix; and

25 **WHEREAS**, the Final Report contains recommended guidelines on built area and
26 dedicated open space; height limitations; allowable uses within the built area; site design
27 and architectural quality; and financial implications; as well as a story of the process and
28 illustrative site concept maps; and

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WHEREAS, in summary, the Albany community envisions a 190-acre waterfront that is a model of environmental and economic sustainability; that supports a multi-generational community, small-scale, independently-owned businesses; and local arts, culture, and cuisine,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council hereby accepts the *Voices to Vision Final Report and Recommendations* to be used as a living document on waterfront planning; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council compliments Fern Tiger and expresses its gratitude for the creative, thorough, impartial, and overall impressive work she and her team performed on *Voices to Vision* for the City of Albany.

Joanne Wile
Mayor